

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Please amend the paragraph bridging page 1, line 27 - page 2, line 7, as follows:**

At present, there have been ~~worried~~ worries not only about acid rain due to an increasing NOx (nitrogen oxides) but also about ~~[[the]]~~ global warming due to an increasing CO<sub>2</sub> in association with an increase in consumption of fossil fuel such as petroleum and such environmental destruction has become a serious problem. Therefore, our attention has been greatly concentrated on development and practical application of various kinds of clean energy which is friendly to the earth. Part of means for developing such a new energy is a practical application of hydrogen energy. Hydrogen is a constituent element of water inexhaustibly present on the earth and can be not only produced using various kinds of primary energy but also utilized as fluid energy in place of conventionally used petroleum without the risk of destroying the environment because its product ~~[[by]]~~ of combustion is only water. In addition, unlike electricity, it has excellent characteristics such as its relatively easy storage.

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